

Fort Belknap Indian Community

EXHIBIT 4

DATE 1/24/07

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Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Tribal Govt.)
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboiné and the Gros Ventre
Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

January 22, 2007

Dave Kasten, Chair
Mike Cooney, Vice Chair
House-Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning

Dear Chair Kasten and Committee Members;

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council would like to thank you for taking the time to consider an issue of profound importance to the Nakoda (Assiniboiné) and White Clay (Gros Ventre) Tribes of Montana.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community conveys their support for the Montana-Department of Environmental Quality's efforts to fund the project "Reclamation of Swift Gulch Placer Tailings and Wetland Establishment" from the DNRC-administered Reclamation and Development Grant Program in the amount of \$300,000.

Members of the Fort Belknap Community are very concerned about the continuing deterioration of water quality in Swift Gulch and the potential for this situation to contaminate water resources downstream on Reservation lands. Swift Gulch is part of the headwaters of the Mission Canyon watershed, an area which is extensively used by Fort Belknap community members for Cultural and recreational activities.

The Fort Belknap Tribal Government supports construction of settling basins and wetlands within the lower reaches of Swift Gulch to minimize contaminants from impacting surface waters before they flow onto our reservation.

The Fort Belknap Tribal Government and Environmental Department staff is available to make more specific plans about how we can work together to ensure our water is safe. Once again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julia Doney, President
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council